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Abstract

2 Apparatus and method for detecting presence of an analyte in ambient air. The apparatus
3 comprising a valve for admitting ambient air, a line for conveying the air to a sensing element, a
4 housing for isolating the environment around the sensing element, an inlet port for flowing the
5 air to the sensing element in a turbulent flow in a direction substantially perpendicularly to the
6 sensing element, an outlet port for conveying the air from the sensing element, and a pump in
7 communication with the outlet port for providing suction for drawing the air to the sensing element.

8 The method includes the steps of drawing in ambient air that may contain an analyte, projecting
9 the air at a sensing element in a turbulent flow by flowing the air at the sensing element, the sensing
10 element having on its surface a chemoselective material that selectively interacts with the analyte,
11 and detecting the interaction of the analyte with the sensing element.